

3 Contracts Are Awarded For Work at Airport Here

The Airport Commission of Forsyth County awarded yesterday three contracts for improvement projects at Smith Reynolds Airport.

Bids were awarded to:

—Ashland-Warren Inc. for repaving the access road in front of the terminal. The company bid \$23,100 for the project, which will begin soon and is expected to take three or four days.

—Rockwell Radio & Electric Co. for installing new lighting along the apron and taxiway adjacent to the secondary runway. The company bid \$27,033 for the project.

—Pavement Specialists Inc., a Dallas-based company, to cut grooves into the primary runway. The company bid \$73,531 to cut small grooves 2 inches apart.

The grooves will improve traction on the 6,654-foot runway in wet weather. Airport Manager William B. Rankin II said that the project will begin in two or three weeks and will take about one month to complete.

The airport commission also voted to set a minimum charge on air taxi operators who base flights out of Smith Reynolds Airport.

Any company carrying passengers or freight for profit out of the airport will be charged \$600 or 5 percent of its revenues a year, whichever is greater. Rankin said that four

air taxi carriers now operate out of the airport.

“To not do this (set a fee for air taxi operators) would place Piedmont (Airlines) at a competitive disadvantage,” Rankin said.

Piedmont Airlines pays

similar fees under its contract to use the airport, he said.